

Ecosystem Services Approach in South Asia

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South Asia

- Rich in biodiversity
- c 2/3rds of wildlife habitats already destroyed
- High population density, home to nearly ½ of the world's poor.
- Poverty linked to environmental degradation
- >130 m ha of arable farmland lost to salinization and water logging
- Habitat conversion rates inside PAs indistinguishable from unprotected lands (Clark et al 2013).
- 1/4 land inside PAs now classified as human modified.



Difference in Asian and Western scenario of ES

Ecological sensitivity and fragility



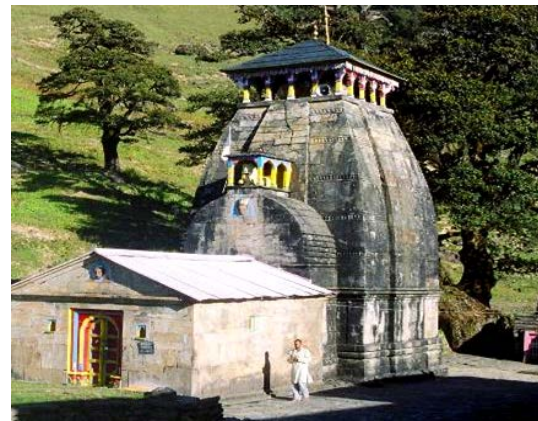
Asian scenario



Western scenario

Different demands

Difference in Asian and Western...



Difference in Asian and Western...

Different resources



Key considerations for ES approach in South Asia

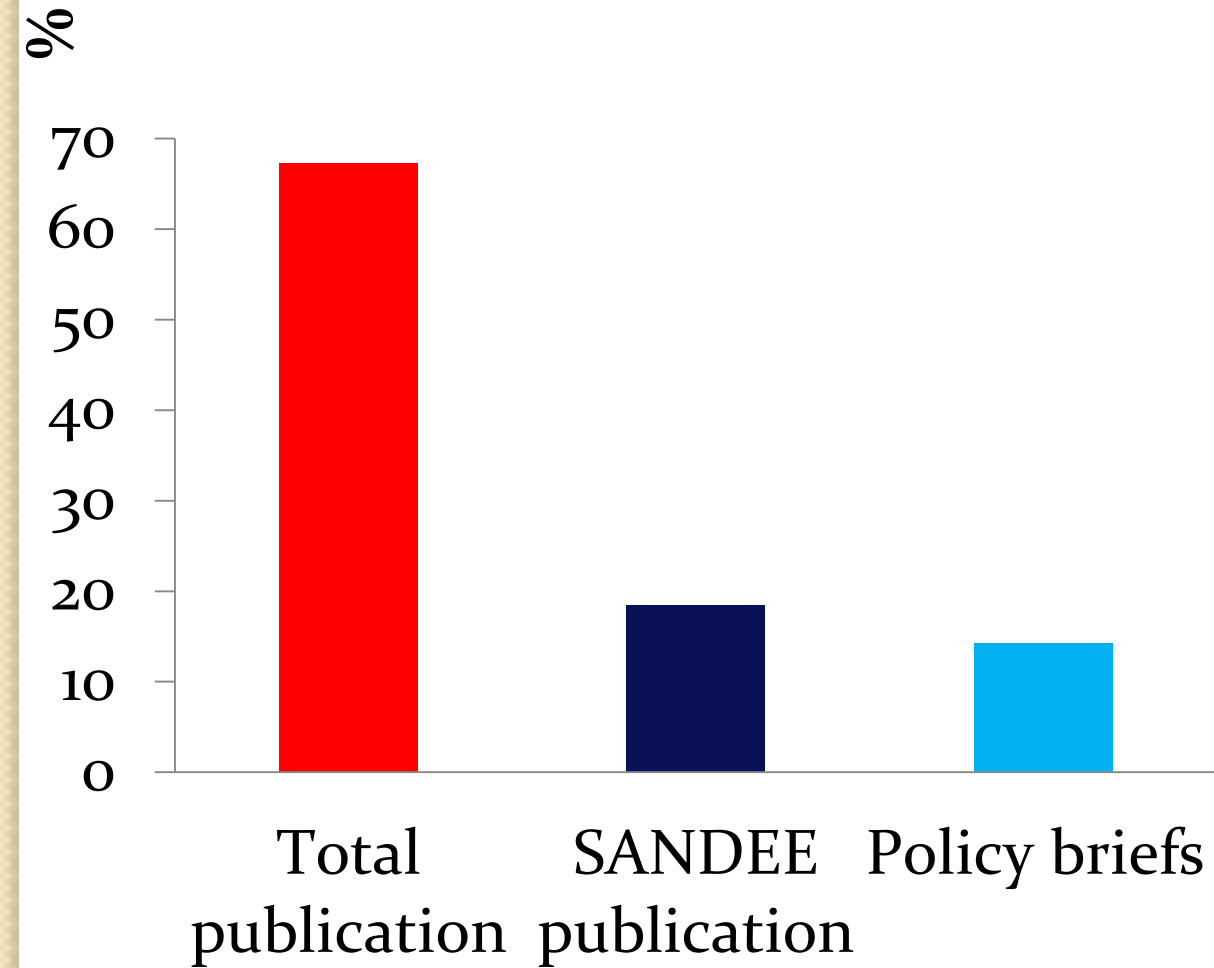
- Contributions of ES to livelihoods of vulnerable groups
- Conservation of highly threatened and irreplaceable services such as biodiversity
- Distribution of benefits and costs to different stakeholders at multiple scales
- Conflicts associated with use of ES and trade-offs between conservation, livelihoods and development
- Identification of policy for conserving ES and for optimizing tradeoffs for socially desirable outcomes



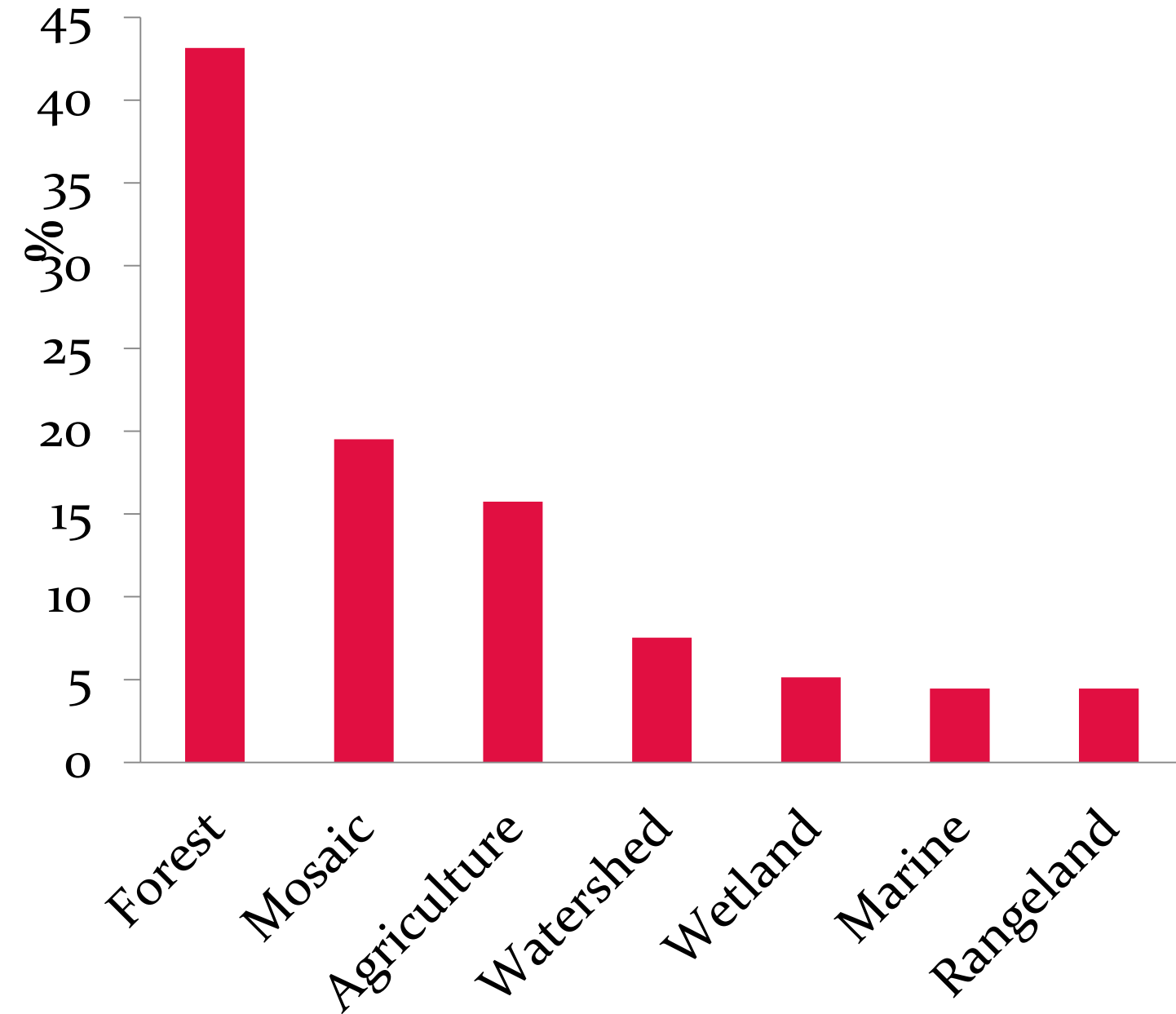
South Asia and HKH



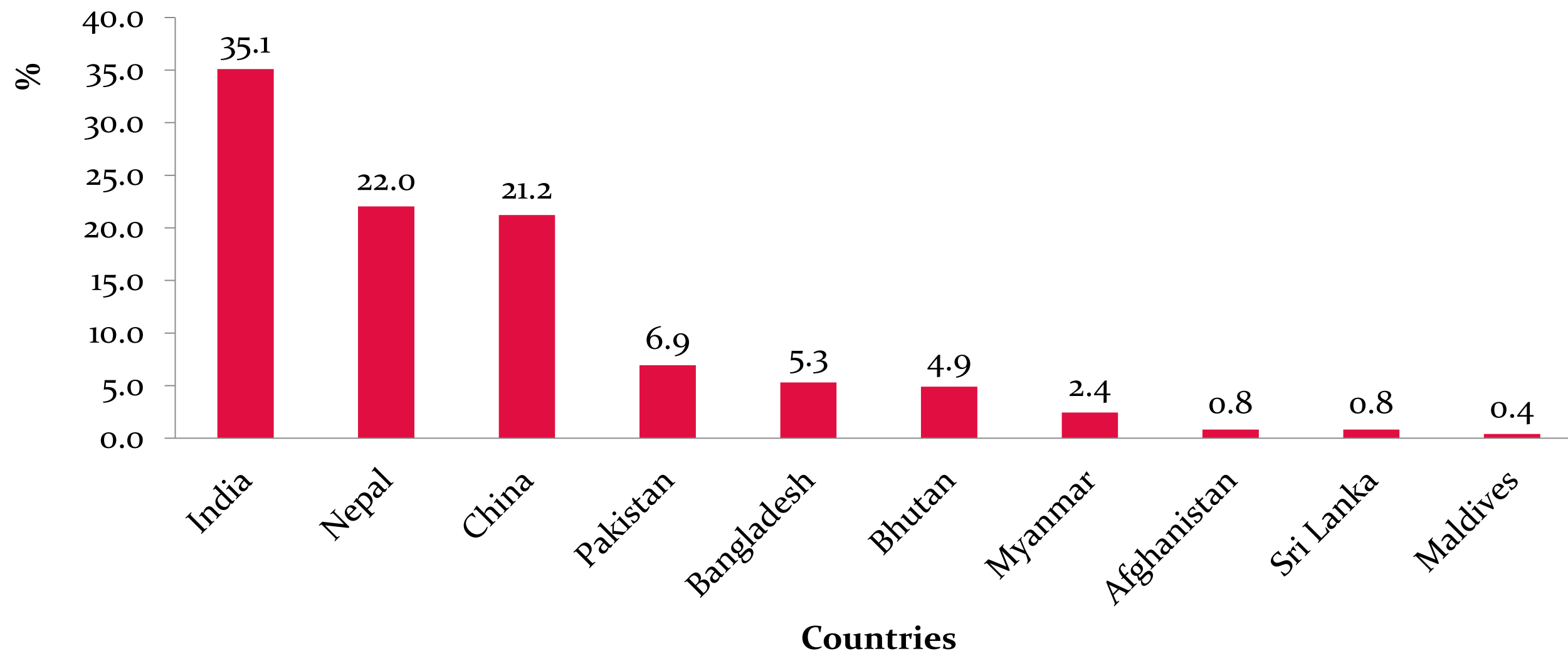
Publications on ecosystem services



n= 315

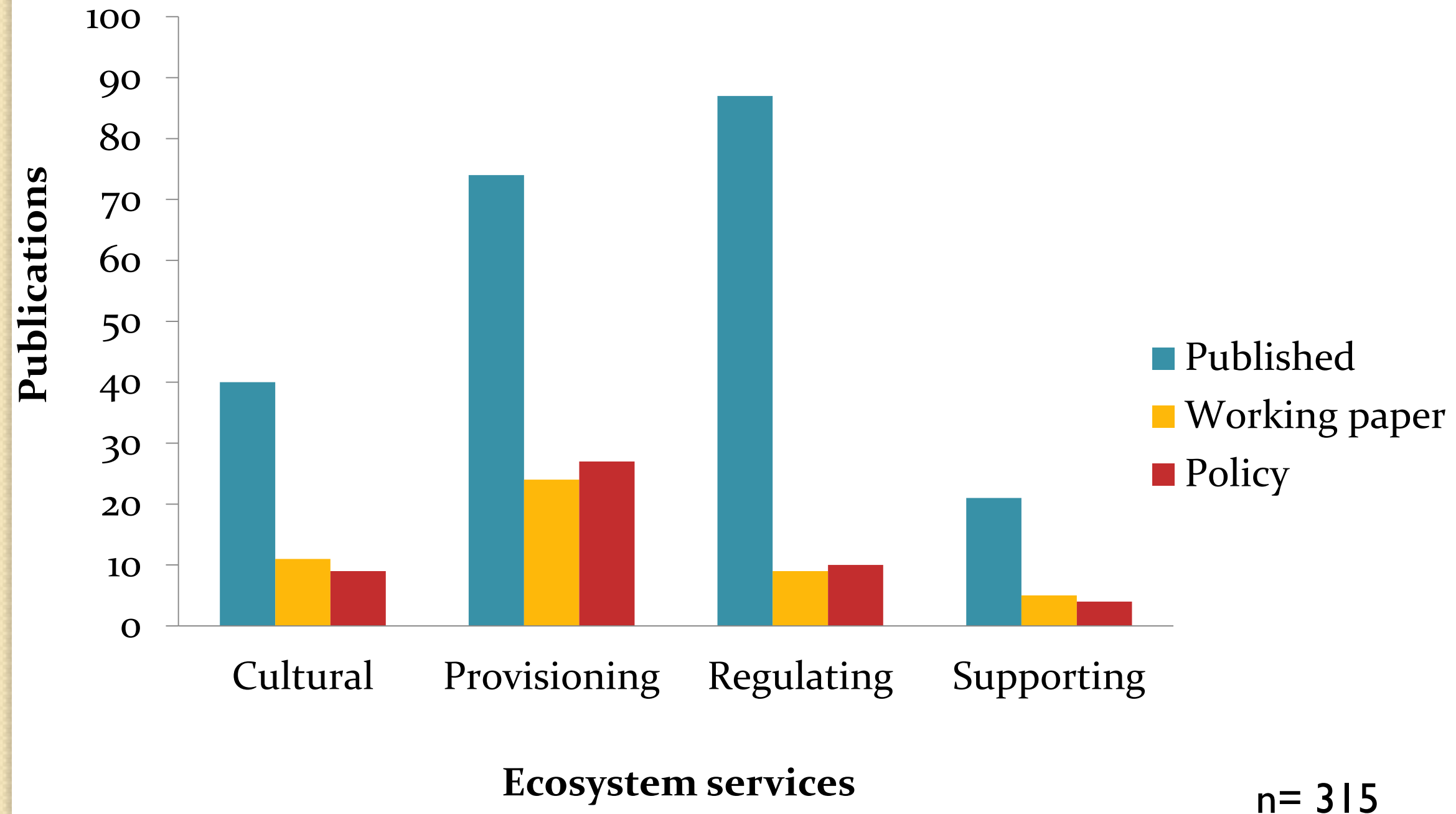


Country-wise publications on ecosystem services

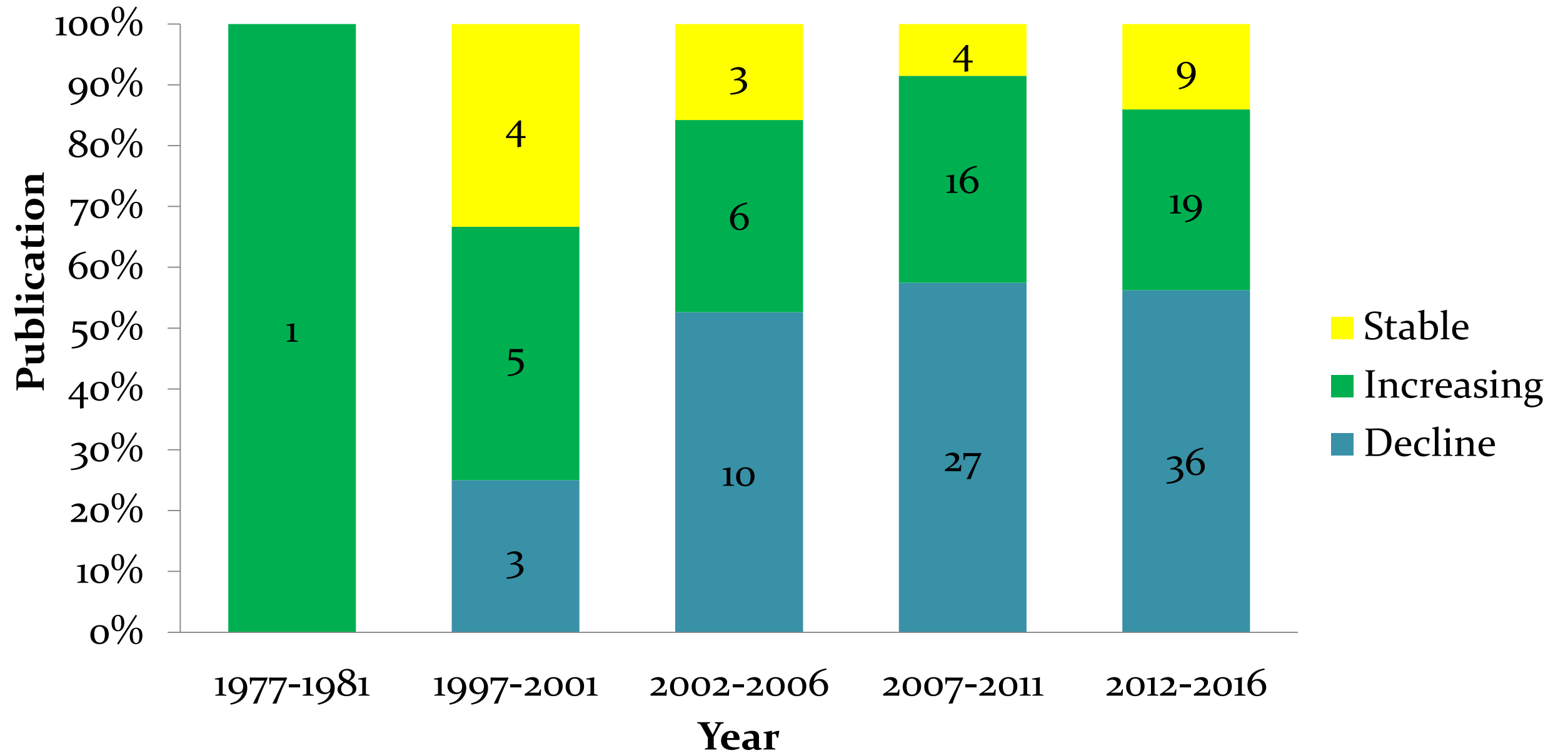


Only 62 studies of the 1,310 studies identified in the TEEB database are from South Asian biomes.

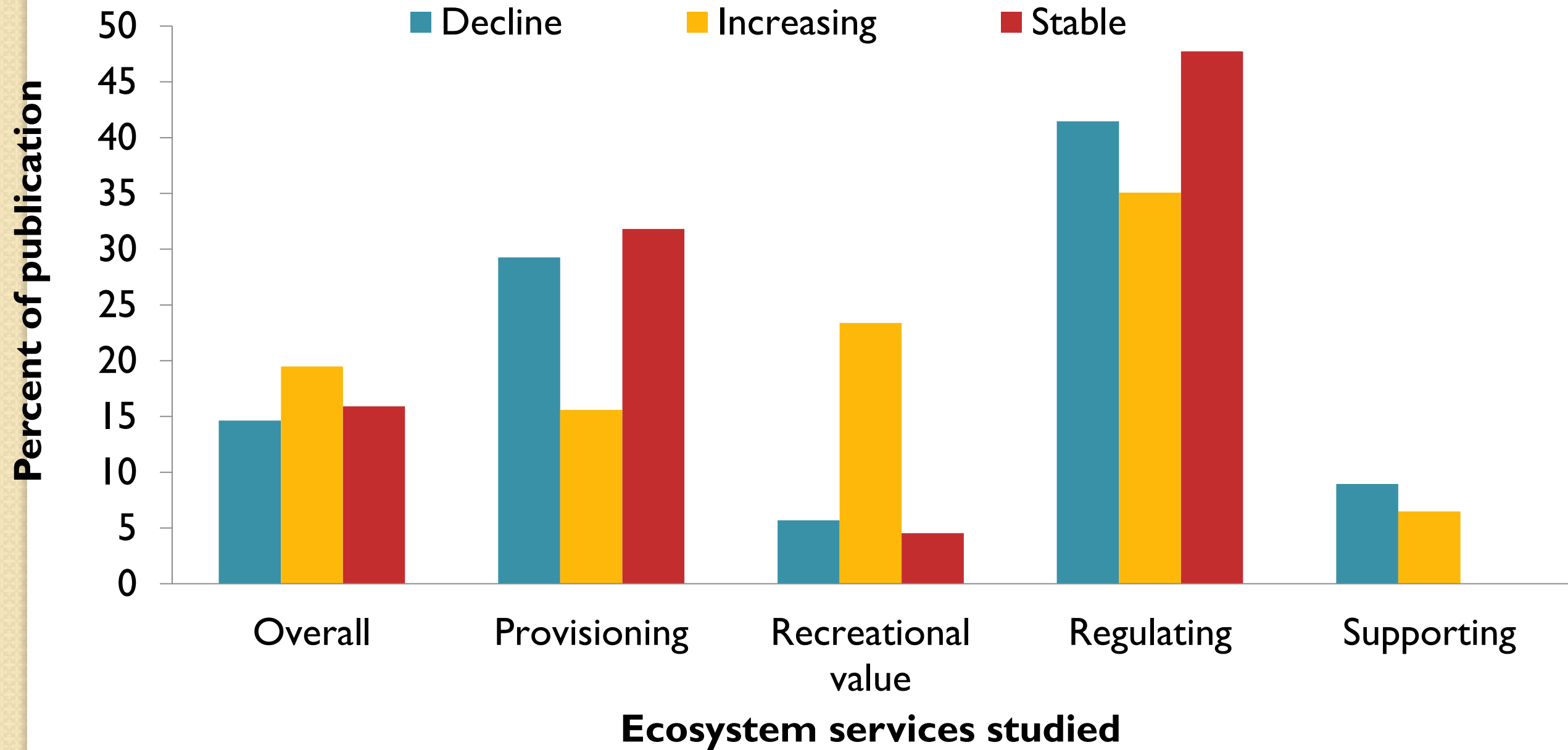
Types of ecosystem services studied



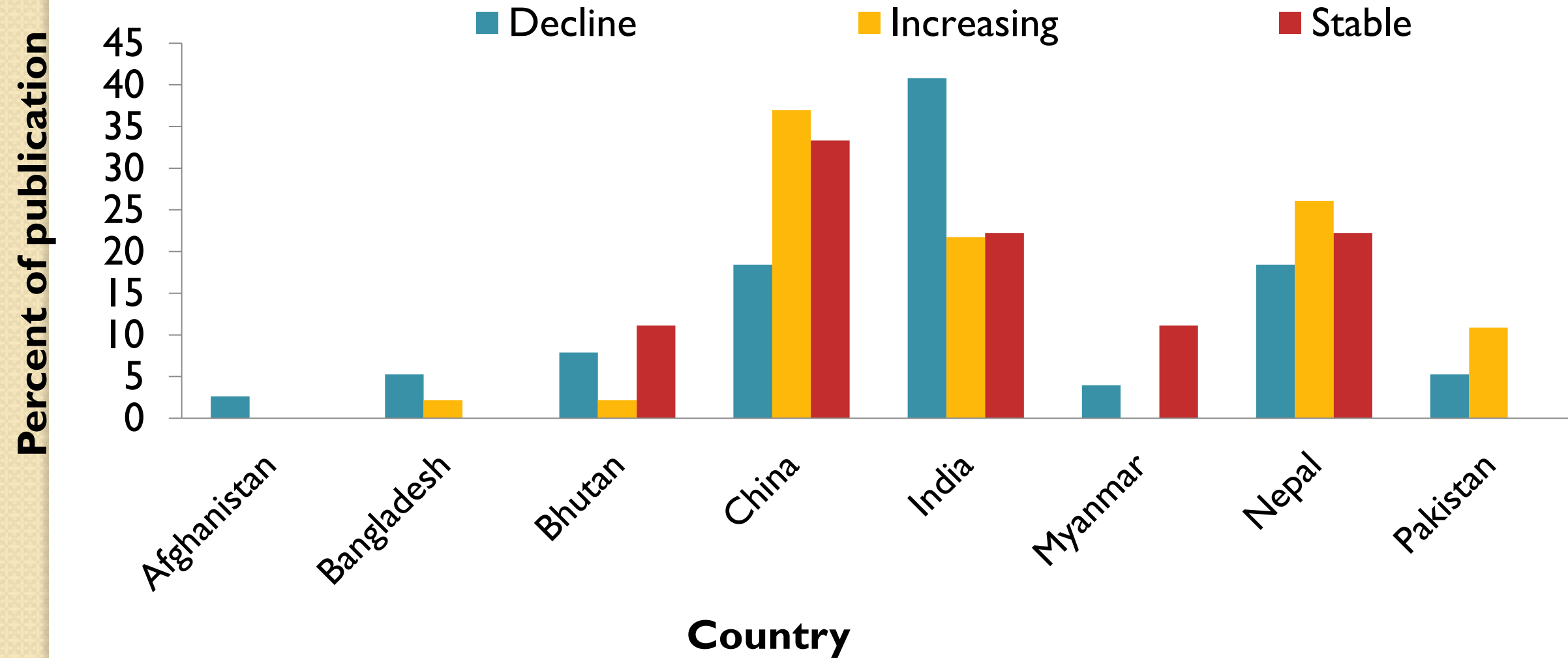
Trends in ecosystem services



Trends in ecosystem services



Trend in ecosystem services





Traditional and modern application of ES approach

- In India, traditionally taxes and fees paid to village councils by the downstream villagers for using grazing grounds and maintaining water quality and quantity in natural streams.
- Some watershed level arrangements in place, no large scale PES examples
- Most of the international organizations working on ES related issues
- Nepal, China leading in PES implementation in the region

Indian Policy

“Village communities should in no event be permitted to use forest at the cost of *National Interest*”.

Indian Forest Policy Statement (1952)

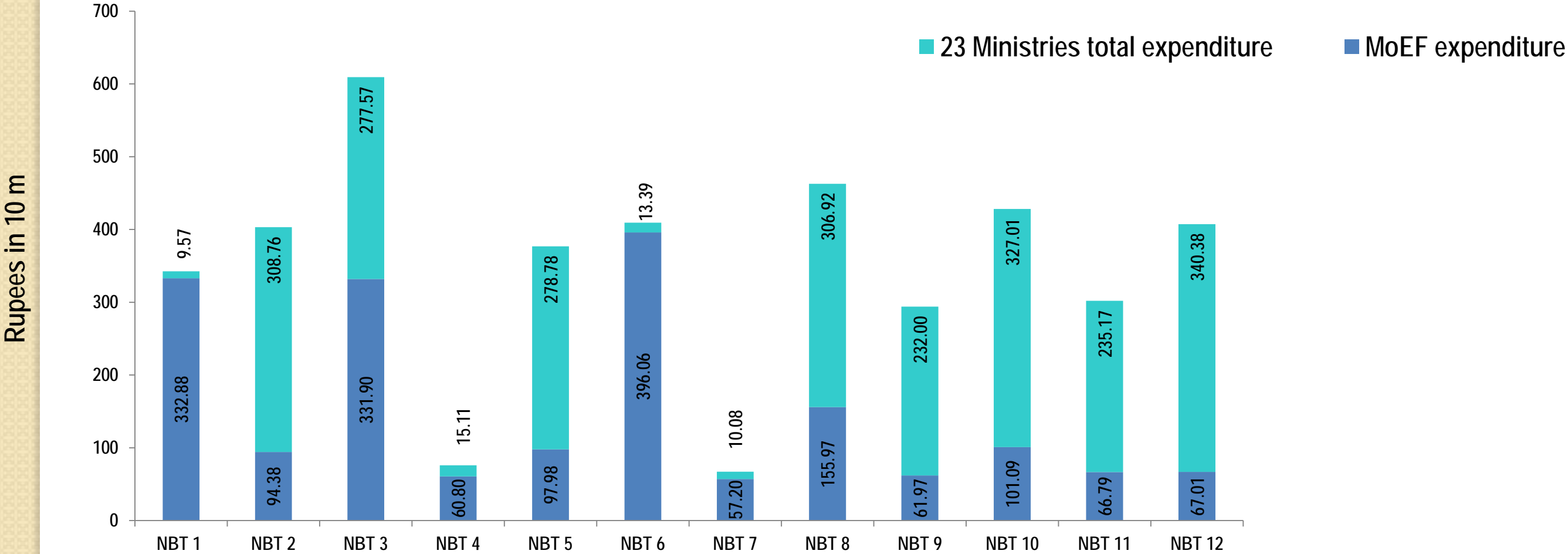
“Excessive concern for revenue, a disregard for forest people’s needs and lack of initiative in involving people in forest protection work in the past needs to be corrected”.

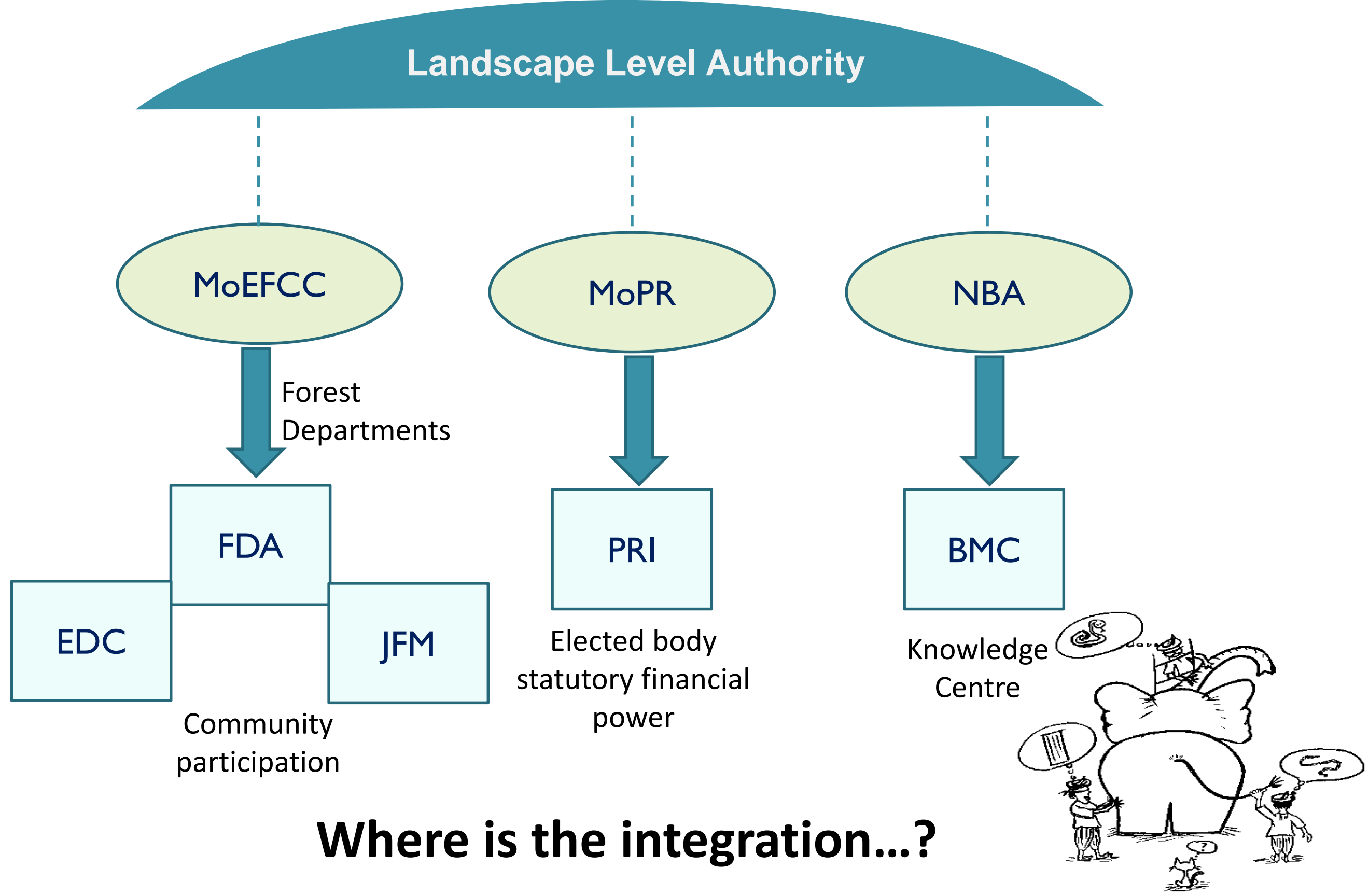
Indian Forest Policy Statement (1988)



Funding Sources

Combined allocation of funds (2013-14) of MoEFCC and 23 other Ministries of GOI that contribute towards NBT







Thank you